

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

READINESS

SEAPOW AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



Joe Courtney
Congress of the United States
2nd District, Connecticut

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March 19, 2008

The Honorable Solomon Ortiz
Chairman
Readiness Subcommittee
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable J. Randy Forbes
Ranking Member
Readiness Subcommittee
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ortiz and Ranking Member Forbes:

As your subcommittee begins to consider the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for \$13.8 million in the Army National Guard's budget request for the Regional Training Institute (RTI) at Camp Rell in Niantic, Connecticut.

The RTI at Camp Rell will provide an educational facility complex in order to train and maintain the future leadership of the Northeastern National Guard. This facility will permit implementation of the most current and innovative instructional techniques to provide Army training in order to improve the readiness posture within the Army National Guard. It is slated to occupy 10 acres of Camp Rell, and will be an exciting improvement to the training mission at that facility.

This facility is required to house all elements of the Northeast Army National Guard Leadership Training Brigade, which provides Regionalized Leadership, Noncommissioned Officer Education, Officer Candidate School, and General Studies Training for the Army National Guard, the United States Army Reserve, and the Active Component. The 169th Leadership Regiment is responsible for managing academic training, food service and lodging for the eight-state Northeast Region. The 44 personnel in the Regiment train and support classloads of up to 348 students at any given time, and it is critical that they have adequate and modern facilities to accomplish their important mission.

The 169th Leadership Regiment is currently located in a series of temporary WWII vintage, wooden buildings. These buildings do not meet the minimum Army requirements for classroom, dining, or billeting; nor do they meet the quality of life standards imposed by the Installations Directorate as well as the OSHA requirements for lighting. The facility is 74 years old and has been determined to be too costly to maintain, operate, and is unfeasible for rehabilitation.

The Camp Rell RTI is critical to the continued training and education of the leaders of our Army National Guard – for both today and the future. Therefore, I respectfully request your support for maintaining the budget request of \$13.8 million for the execution of this project in FY2009.

I understand and appreciate the fiscal challenges you face this year, and am grateful for your consideration of this request. As always, thank you for your support of Sub Base New London and for the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

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March 19, 2008

The Honorable Chet Edwards
Chairman
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Room H-143 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zach Wamp
Ranking Member
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Edwards and Ranking Member Wamp:

As your subcommittee begins to consider the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for \$13.8 million in the Army National Guard's budget request for the Regional Training Institute (RTI) at Camp Rell in Niantic, Connecticut.

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JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress